

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 00041 050341Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 HA-05 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
/052 W

-----071374 050346Z /70

O 050303Z JAN 78 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7687

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0041

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM PGOV CI

SUBJECT: EARLY RETURNS OF CHILEAN NATIONAL CONSULTATION

REF: 77 SANTIAGO 10385

1. SUMMARY: VOTE TURNOUT WAS HEAVY (5.5 MILLION) --
PERHAPS BECAUSE MOST VOTERS DID NOT LEARN THAT TOUGH
SANCTIONS FOR NOT VOTING HAD BEEN QUIETLY REMOVED AT
LAST MINUTE. ON THE BASIS OF APPROXIMATELY HALF OF
THE VOTE TALLIED, 77 PERCENT ARE "YES", 19.5 PERCENT
ARE "NO" AND 3.5 PERCENT BLANK. AT THIS POINT WE
BELIEVE PINOCHET WILL OBTAIN BETWEEN 75 AND 80 PERCENT
OF THE VOTE. AS DESCRIBED IN SANTIAGO 10385, FAVOR-
ABLE VOTE OF 75-80 PERCENT IS A VICTORY FOR PINOCHET.
SINCE VOTES ARE COUNTED IN PUBLIC AT THE VOTING
TABLES, BALLOT STUFFING WAS DIFFICULT, PARTICULARLY
IN SANTIAGO. BUT THIS MISSES THE POINT: GIVEN THE
LOADED QUESTION AND TOTALLY ONE-SIDED PROPAGANDA BEFORE
THE VOTE, THE GOC DID NOT HAVE TO RESORT TO ELECTORAL
FRAUD TO EMERGE VICTORIOUS. PARA 6 CONTAINS OUR
SUGGESTED DEPARTMENT PRESS COMMENT.

2. WITH APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT OF VOTE TALLIED GOC
HAS ANNOUNCED THAT APPROXIMATELY 77.5 PERCENT HAVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 00041 050341Z

VOTED "YES" IN NATIONAL CONSULTATION. SANTIAGO OFFI-
CIAL DATE AT 10:00 P.M.: 71.26 WITH 3.4 PERCENT
NULL AND BLANK.

3. AS REPORTED BY RADIO STATION VOTING RETURNS AT
INDIVIDUAL TABLES WERE GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH THE
CONVENTIONAL WISDOM. ACROSS-THE-BOARD, WOMEN ARE

VOTING 5 OR 6 TO 1 FOR THE GOVERNMENT; THE PROPORTION OF MEN FOR THE GOC IS LESS AND RELATED TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC STANDING. IN POORER AREAS THE GOC IS WINNING ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF THE MALE VOTE AND 75 PERCENT OF THE WOMEN; IN MORE AFFLUENT DISTRICTS THE MEN GO 2 TO 1 OR BETTER FOR THE GOC. OUT OF HUNDREDS OF TABLES REPORTED THE GOC LOST AT ONLY THREE OR FOUR.

4. SPOTTY RETURNS FROM POLLING PLACES OUTSIDE SANTIAGO SHOW THE GOC EVEN STRONGER BUT, LESS SO IN THE NORTH THAN IN THE STOLID, AGRICULTURAL SOUTH WHERE GHE GOC IS REPORTEDLY GETTING WELL OVER 85 PERCENT. AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL FROM RESULTS TABLE-BY-TABLE, BLANK AND VOID VOTES GENERALLY ARE A SMALL PROPORTION OF THE VOTE (THE OFFICIAL 3-4 PERCENT COUNT DOES NOT SEEM UNREALISTIC).

5. THE GOVERNMENT HAS AUTHORIZED A DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT AT DIEGO PORTALES AND A LARGE CROWD IS (10:00 P.M.) BEING HARANGUED BY PINOCHET WITH ALL THE JUNTA MEMBERS PRESENT EXCEPT AIR FORCE'S LEIGH. PINOCHET SAYS THAT THE VOTE PROVES WHAT CHILE THINKS OF THE ALLANA COMMISSION (HE WILL NEVER GET TO CHILE; HE CAN GO TO PAKISTAN WHERE THERE ARE 50,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS) AND THE UNITED NATIONS. EARLIER AT A PRESS CONFERENCE PINOCHET SAID THAT THERE WILL BE NO MORE ELECTIONS IN CHILE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTIA 00041 050341Z

UNTIL 1986 BUT THAT MILITARY/CIVIL AND GOVERNMENT/CIVILIAN COMMUNICATION WILL BE STRENGTHENED.

6. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING, WE PROPOSE THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONFINE ITSELF TO THE FOLLING COMMENT.

QUOTE: IN THE PLEBISCITE IN CHILE YESTERDAY THE GREAT MAJORITY VOTED, AS EXPECTED GIVEN THE FORM OF THE VOTE, IN FAVOR OF CHILE AND AGAINST WHAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET AND HIS ADVISORS TERMED 'INTERNATIONAL AGRESSION.' WE BELIEVE THAT THE VOTING PROCESS PROVES THAT NATION-WIDE ELECTIONS ARE FEASIBLE. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT WILL NOW SEE ITS WAY CLEAR TO HOLD SOON REGULAR DEMOCRATIC ELECTION. UNQUOTE.

7. COMMENT: NO DOUBT THAT THE GOC HAS BURLESQUED THE ELECTORAL PROCESS BY THIS NATIONAL CONSULTATION. IN THE PROCESS PINOCHET PLAYED FAST AND LOOSE WITH CHILEAN LAW AND INSTITUTIONS AND HE MAY HAVE SPLIT HIS JUNTA. THE GOC MONOPOLIZED THE MEDIA, RAN A BLITZKRIEG CAMPAIGN, PREVENTED AN OPPOSITION FROM ORGANIZING AND

REACHING THE PEOPLE THROUGH TRADITIONAL MEANS, SLANTED THE PROPOSAL PUT TO THE PEOPLE AND EVEN GAVE THEM A LOADED BALLOT. MANY VOTERS FEARED REPRISALS FOR VOTING "NO". WE DOUBT UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE GOC HAD THE TIME OR NEED TO MANIPULATE THE ACTUAL VOTE. HOW CAN YOU LOSE RUNNING AGAINST CUBA, UGANDA AND THE RUSSIANS?

8. HAVING SAID ALL THE FOREGOING, PINOCHET ESTABLISHED THAT HE CAN STILL COUNT ON A COMBINATION OF TRADITIONAL RIGHT-WING SUPPORT, AND THE MAJORITY OF THE MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD CHILEANS, WHO FEAR THAT A REPUDIATION OF HIS REGIME WOULD UNAVOIDABLY MEAN A RETURN TO THE CHAOS OF THE ALLENDE DAYS.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SANTIA 00041 050341Z

LANDAU

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANTIA00041
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780007-0951
Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780196/aaaaddh.tel
Line Count: 137
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 56ce8be6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SANTIAGO 10385
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3824089
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EARLY RETURNS OF CHILEAN NATIONAL CONSULTATION
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, CI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/56ce8be6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014